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Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Fifty-second session

Summary record (partial)* of the 40th meeting
Held at the Palais Wilson, Geneva, on Friday, 23 May 2014, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Kedzia

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* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Substantive issues arising in the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (*continued*)

1. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the substantive issues addressed by the Committee at the current session. The Committee had heard remarks from Mr. Craig Mokhiber, Chief of the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and had held meetings with its partners. For the second consecutive session, the Committee had met for a total of four weeks and had used the additional meeting time to consider more State party reports.

2. It had also held discussions on the working group related to the Optional Protocol to the Covenant and had designated Ms. Shin Heisoo as the coordinator of the working group. Of the individual communications received thus far, two had been deemed inadmissible on the ground that the countries concerned were not States parties to the Optional Protocol, while two others had been registered. The Committee was waiting for comments from the State party concerned on the admissibility of those two communications. Since the Committee's previous session, Belgium, Finland and Gabon had ratified the Optional Protocol. As Gabon was the first African country to ratify the Optional Protocol, the States parties to the Protocol now included representatives of all geographical regions. Nevertheless, the process of ratifying the Optional Protocol should be significantly accelerated, and he was counting on the cooperation of all stakeholders to bring that about. The State of Palestine had become the 162nd State party to the Covenant.

3. The Committee had continued its work on its general comment on the right to sexual and reproductive health and its general comment on just and favourable conditions of work. It had also conducted background research on three other general comments and had discussed its working methods and other issues related to the treaty body strengthening process. In addition, it had adopted guidelines on the independence and impartiality of its members. Lastly, during the session the Committee had welcomed large groups of students from universities and institutes in Switzerland, the Netherlands and Italy as well as individuals participating in training activities.

Consideration of reports

(a) Reports submitted by States parties in accordance with articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant (*continued*) (E/C.12/UKR/CO/6; E/C.12/IDN/CO/1; E/C.12/MCO/CO/2-3; E/C.12/LTU/CO/2; E/C.12/ARM/CO/2-3; E/C.12/CHN/CO/2; E/C.12/CZE/CO/2; E/C.12/UZB/CO/2; E/C.12/SLV/CO/3-5; E/C.12/SRB/CO/2)

4. **The Chairperson** said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt the concluding observations on the reports of Ukraine, Indonesia, Monaco, Lithuania, Armenia, China, the Czech Republic, Uzbekistan, El Salvador and Serbia.

5. *It was so decided.*

Miscellaneous matters

6. **The Chairperson** said that the Committee had adopted the provisional programme of work for its fifty-third session, to be held from 10 to 28 November 2014, during which it would consider the reports of Finland (E/C.12/FIN/6), Guatemala (E/C.12/GTM/3), Montenegro (E/C.12/MNE/1), Nepal (E/C.12/NPL/3), Portugal (E/C.12/PRT/4), Romania (E/C.12/ROU/3-5), Slovenia (E/C.12/SVN/2) and Viet Nam (E/C.12/VNM/2-4). While that session would last for three weeks, in 2015 the Committee would have an additional two

weeks of meeting time. It would inform all interested parties in due course about how that time would be used.

Closure of the session

7. Following an exchange of courtesies, **the Chairperson** declared the fifty-second session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights closed.

The discussion covered in the summary record ended at 3.25 p.m.